

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 29, 2003. Claims 14 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to reinstate these claims in this or any other application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 24-27, 29, 30, 32-34, 38-47 and 49-51 are now pending in this case.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Claims 14 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice in response to this objection. As to claim 41, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is in proper form and consistent with the drawings. For example, FIGS. 3 and 4 disclose a plurality of delay control circuits 21a, 21b . . . 21n, each one containing a respective plurality of fuse or anti-fuse elements 27a, 27b . . . 27n. That is, each delay control circuit may contain fuse elements, anti-fuse elements, or a combination of both. At least for this reason, the drawings are proper and consistent with claim 41 and no correction is required.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-13, 16, 18-20, 24-27, 29-34, 38-47 and 49-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Ashuri (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,530). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claims 1, 15 and 29 each recites a data output apparatus comprising “a plurality of adjustable delay circuits receiving [a] first clock signal, each of said adjustable delay circuits providing a respective delayed first clock signal to a respective one of [a] plurality of output circuits.” [Emphasis added.] Claims 1, 15 and 29 also recite that “each adjustable delay circuit contains a programming circuit . . . wherein each programming circuit contains at least one fuse element for programming.” [Emphasis added.]

Claims 49-51 each recites all of the above-recited claim limitations except that the word “fuse” is replaced by “anti-fuse.”

As acknowledged by the Office Action, AAPA does not teach a plurality of adjustable delay circuits for receiving a first clock signal. The Office Action, however, points to Ashuri as disclosing an adjustable delay. The fact still remains that neither AAPA nor Ashuri, nor the combination of both, teaches or suggests incorporating a plurality of adjustable delay circuits receiving the first clock signal where each of the adjustable delay circuits provides a respective delayed first clock signal to a respective one of a plurality of output circuits.

In fact, Ashuri adds nothing to AAPA and is cumulative of AAPA. As admitted in the Office Action, Ashuri discloses a single output circuit having its own delay shifter, where the delay shifter provides a delayed clock signal to an output

circuit. This combination is nothing more than a portion of AAPA disclosed in FIG. 1 of the present application. For example, AAPA discloses a single output circuit 13n having a delay shifter 19, where the delay shifter provides a delayed clock signal to the output circuit.

Neither AAPA nor Ashuri, taken alone or in combination, discloses every element of claims 1, 15, 29 and 49-51. At least for these reasons, claims 1, 15, 29 and 49-51 are allowable over AAPA and Ashuri.

Claim 41 recites “receiving a plurality of data output signals at respective output circuits; and operating said output circuits in response to respective applied clock signals.” [Emphasis added.] Claim 41 also recites “generating each said respective applied clock signal from [a] first clock signal, each said respective applied clock signals having a respective adjustable delay relative to said first clock signal.” [Emphasis added.] Claim 41 further recites “modifying a conductive state of at least one of a fuse element and an anti-fuse element to select a delay rate.” At least for the same reasons mentioned above in connection with claims 1, 15, 29 and 49-51, claim 41 is also allowable over AAPA and Ashuri.

Claims 2, 4-6, 10-13, 16, 18-20, 24-27, 30, 32-34, 38-40 and 42-47 depend from claims 1, 15, 29 and 41, and are also allowable over AAPA and Ashuri at least for the same reasons mentioned above and also because neither AAPA nor Ashuri, taken alone

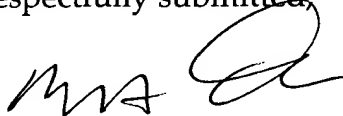
or in combination, teaches or suggests the respective inventive combinations defined by claims 2, 4-6, 10-13, 16, 18-20, 24-27, 30, 32-34, 38-40 and 42-47.

Claims 14 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ashuri and further in view of Heuring. Claims 14 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice and, therefore, this rejection is no longer applicable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,


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